

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Final Office Action mailed June 21, 2007, the Office Action rejected claims 47-53, 55-63, 65-72 and 74-75 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Applicants respectfully respond to the Office Action.

I. Rejection of Claims 47-53, 55-63, 65-72 and 74-75 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 47-53, 55-63, 65-72 and 74-75 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on U.S. Patent No. 7,212,306 to Chrisop et al. (hereinafter, "Chrisop") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,148,980 to Tominaga (hereinafter, "Tominaga"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

35 U.S.C. § 103(c) states that:

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under one or more of subsections (e), (f), and (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c) and M.P.E.P. § 706.02(l)(1), the Chrisop reference is disqualified as prior art for purposes of 35 U.S.C. § 103 against the claimed invention because this reference and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person or organization. More specifically, the Chrisop reference and the present application were, at the time the invention was made, both owned by Sharp Laboratories of America, Inc.

II. Rejection of Claims 47, 57 and 67 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

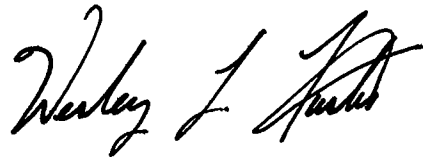
The Office Action also rejected claims 47, 57 and 67 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on U.S. Patent No. 7,212,306 to Chrisop et al. (hereinafter, "Chrisop") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,148,980 to Tominaga (hereinafter, "Tominaga"). For the reasons set forth above, the Chrisop reference is disqualified as prior art for purposes of 35 U.S.C. § 103 against the claimed invention.

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III. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If there are any remaining issues preventing allowance of the pending claims that may be clarified by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wesley L. Austin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Wesley" being the most prominent.

/Wesley L. Austin/

Wesley L. Austin
Reg. No. 42,273
Attorney for Applicant

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MADSON & AUSTIN
15 West South Temple, Suite 900
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101
Telephone: (801) 537-1700